

NEWS:



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Orange County Executive

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Orange County Tech Rescue Team Holds Successful Drill *Rope Rescue Division observed by NYS for certification*

(Goshen, NY) – Orange County Commissioner of Emergency Services Walter C. Koury and Deputy Commissioner of Fire Services John Horan announce that the County’s Technical Rescue Team, Rope Rescue Division, held a successful exercise today, simulating the safe removal of a “victim” from multiple points on and below the “Hamilton-Fish” Newburgh-Beacon Bridge over the Hudson River, completing the first phase of the team’s certification by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

“By forming the Rope Rescue Division, those who are currently trained in this expertise may now have access to the specialized equipment that individual fire departments may not be able to afford, and yet necessary for a successful rescue” said Commissioner Koury. “It also eliminates the duplication of emergency efforts, forming a unit that trains together and responds together, county-wide.”

The Technical Rescue Team handles technical calls concerning building collapses, trench rescues and confined space rescues. This team comes under the Office of the Fire Coordinator John Horan and the Team Leader is Deputy Fire Coordinator of Special Operations Leslie J. Greenwood.

Deputy Commissioner Horan said, “When fire ladders can’t reach victims in an emergency, the Technical Team is mobilized and comes to the rescue, extracting victims from particularly unusual locations.”

In 2010, while the Orange County Legislature approved the formation of the Orange County Technical Rescue Team, the State of New York awarded the Orange County Fire Services a \$150,000 grant to help support this regional effort.

The City of Newburgh and West Point Fire Departments are now conducting training to create the Rope Rescue Division, within the County’s Technical Rescue Team. Shortly, Port Jervis and Sparrowbush Fire Departments will join them and comprise the other half of this division.

For more information, please contact the Orange County Fire Training Center at (845) 374-1900 or visit them at www.oranecountygov.com.

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Orange County Technical Team, Rope Rescue Division member is preparing to repel down the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge during an exercise, June 2, 2011.



Orange County Technical Team, Rope Rescue Division on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge over the Hudson River preparing for a state observed exercise, June 2, 2011.